

Model Supercorrections

Problem from test:

3. Solve the equation for x .

$$-2(x - 3) = 10$$

$$-2x - 6 = 10$$

$$-2x = 16$$

$$x = -8$$

Supercorrection:

3 Convince me that you now understand the concept- connect to previous HW, notes, etc. Be sure to also explain the error(s) that you made.
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Mr. O'B, this is sooooo silly! I just forgot that when I distribute with a negative number, each number in the parentheses changes sign! You warned us about this in class, I made the same mistake on my homework problem (p.67/23) and here I did it again! Well, no more - I've learned my lesson :). Martin showed me a cool alternative solution that avoids distributing (see below).

One other thing - I know that there is never a reason to get an equation wrong - I should always (always, always) check my final answer so that I know whether I need to go back to correct a silly mistake like this. :)

Correct solution:

My method:

$$-2(x - 3) = 10$$

$$-2x + 6 = 10$$

$$\frac{-2x}{-2} = \frac{4}{-2}$$

$$x = -2$$

Check:

$$-2(-2 - 3)$$

$$= -2(-5)$$

$$= 10 \checkmark$$

Martin's Method:

$$-2(x - 3) = 10$$

$$\div -2 \quad \div -2$$

$$\frac{x - 3}{+3} = \frac{-5}{+3}$$

$$x = -2$$